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MetroParks
A service of the Metropolitan District Commission

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Middlesex Fells Reservation

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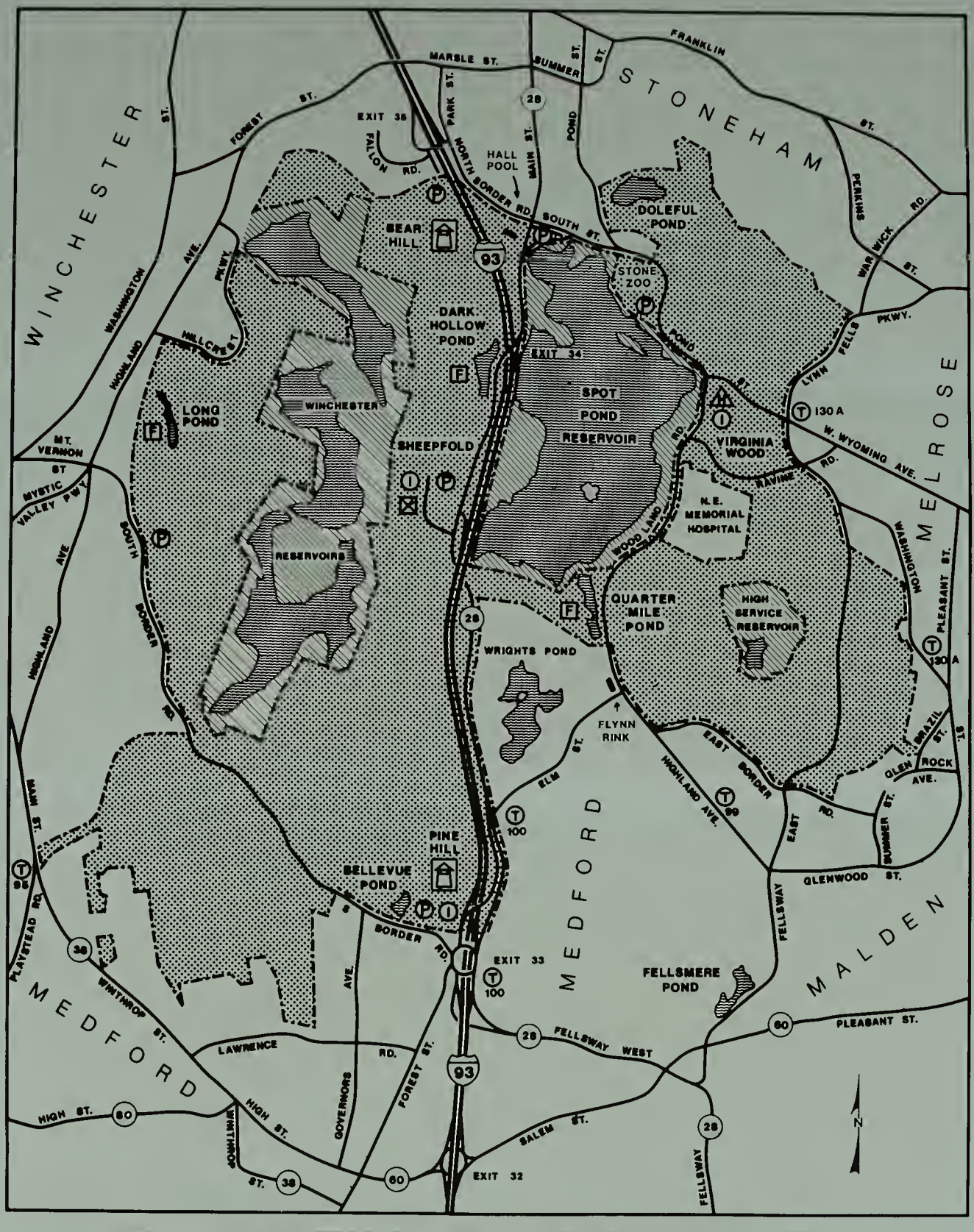

MIDDLESEX FELLS RESERVATION

- PARKING AREA
- MBTA BUS STOP / ROUTE (130)
- INFORMATION
- OBSERVATION TOWER
- PICNIC SITE
- FISHING AREA

TO SAFEGUARD DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES, RESERVOIR PROPERTY IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY.

EMERGENCIES CALL METROPOLICE

(617)-523-1212

- RESERVATION PROPERTY
- RESERVATION BOUNDARY
- SURFACE WATER
- RESERVOIR PROPERTY (ACCESS PROHIBITED)
- HEADQUARTERS

MILES

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General Information

Welcome to the Middlesex Fells Reservation!

The MetroParks Division of the Metropolitan District Commission manages this 2,060 acre woodland and watershed area. Valued for its natural beauty today, to early settlers it provided a ready source of timber for shipbuilding and brick manufacturing operations in Medford; granite and gravel for construction, as well as farmland. Spot Pond Brook in the Virginia Wood area was also harnessed to power a large complex of industrial mills during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Middlesex Fells became a public parkland in 1894 after much lobbying by citizens familiar with the area's scenic value. One of these was Elizur Wright, for whom Wright's Pond and the stone tower on Pine Hill, pictured on the front of this brochure, is named.

Today a professional resource management and visitor services staff strive to protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the Fells while providing opportunities for recreation. Activities include free, informative, cultural and natural history programs.

Hiking Trails

The Fells abounds with a variety of trails and old forest roads that wind through scenic and interesting areas. One of the more popular is the 6.8 mile Skyline Trail, which has existed since the early part of this century. As the name implies, this trail traverses ridges and passes over colorfully named hills providing many excellent views. Other well known trails include the 4.0 mile Rock Circuit Trail, the 0.6 mile Long Pond Trail, and the 4.8 mile Virginia Wood Trail. A 6.0 mile cross-country ski trail, well suited for hiking in the off season, has also been developed.

Trail maps and additional information are available at Reservation Headquarters located at One Woodland Road, Stoneham, MA 02180 (617-662-5214).

Regulations

For the protection and enjoyment of the Middlesex Fells Reservation, the following are prohibited:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Pets, except on a leash
- Swimming
- Grills, hibachis or fires of any kind
- Motorized vehicles
- Littering or dumping
- Entering the Reservation after sunset

A Commitment to Open Space and the Environment

In 1892, Charles Eliot proposed the creation of a Metropolitan Parks System. Eliot was a member of the Frederick Law Olmsted Landscape Architectural Firm, the first landscape architects to work on development of the parks system. Eliot believed that particularly in a crowded urban area, people needed easy access to and contact with nature and open space in order to relax, unwind and escape the daily pressure of city life. To that end Eliot developed a plan that would provide the growing city and its suburbs with scenery, parks and reservations to be held in perpetuity for the public's use and enjoyment.

Eliot's idea was to set aside beachfront along the bay, land along the Charles, Mystic and Neponset Rivers and high ground throughout the Metropolitan area, and to turn this property into regional parks. He envisioned the creation of a series of parkways and roads built and maintained with aesthetics in mind, to make travel between the parks easy and attractive. By 1893 Eliot's design had begun to take shape as the state created the Metropolitan Parks Commission and placed with it 9,177 acres of reservations, 13 miles of ocean frontage, 56 miles of riverbank and seven parkways. Since then, the system has grown. The Commission acquired and preserved thousands of additional acres of parkland that fit into Eliot's original design. It also built new parks, skating rinks, swimming pools, athletic fields, band shells and other recreational outlets. Even today, more property is being preserved; more historical sites are being restored; more ways to make the regional parks system safe and accessible and attractive are being devised.

We can only maintain this great park system with public support and cooperation. Please do your part by respecting each property and complying with all rules and regulations. Thank you.

Metropolitan District Commission
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